

My name is Diane Vulcano and I live on 65 Beachview Avenue in Bridgeport, CT. I have lived at my current home in Bridgeport for approximately 9 years.

I am a middle-aged single professional working woman reliant exclusively on one income. I am very involved in my community and am one of the founders and the current President of the Black Homeowner's Association (BRHA).

Formed in 2004, the BRHA has been working to protect the property values and the quality of life for homeowners in the Black Rock section of Bridgeport by:

1. Requiring intelligent land use and opposing inappropriate development
2. Providing a unified and informed "community voice" to developers and the City of Bridgeport
3. Communicating concerns over public property use and services required by homeowners
4. Assisting with specific homeowner issues

As an association, we can do what an individual homeowner can't always do. Over the years, we've made significant impact by understanding and addressing improper land-use in our community. We have done a lot of work to educate and inform the community about these issues and the impact they have on property values and overall quality of life.

However, in spite of this good work, the number one issue our members and my neighbors continue to complain about, with legitimate reason, is the extremely high property taxes we pay in Bridgeport. We continue to see our neighbors, some who have been here for many years, forced out of our community because they can no longer afford the high property taxes. This exodus goes across the demographic profile and includes young families with children, single people like myself with one income, and retirees who have lived in the community for most of their lives.

People should not be forced to leave a community they love because of high property taxes. But that's what's happening and it is not good

for our community, our city or our country. How much more can people be expected to pay and for how long?

We must have property tax relief in our community. Please consider the three bills Auden Grogins is proposing:

1. HB5332 (An Act Requiring Municipalities that Regionalize to provide Property tax relief);
2. HB 5580 (An Act establishing a state wide mill rate for motor vehicles; and
3. SB898 (An act concerning tax relief for low- moderate income homeowners).

Passing these bills would be a positive step towards easing the tax burden impact on homeowners in Bridgeport.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane Vulcano", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Diane Vulcano
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